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Legislature Passes Balanced Budget

Education and roads top priority; no new taxes on Michigan families

LANSING – State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) announced today that lawmakers have passed a balanced budget that places heavy emphasis on education and roads – without raising any new taxes on Michigan families.

“This budget reflects the priorities of the Republican legislature, and maintains that education will always be priority number one,” Cassis said. “Ensuring the preservation of the Merit Award Scholarship and the \$6,700 per-pupil allowance is critical to guaranteeing that our hard-working students are rewarded and receive the best education available.”

Among the provisions hammered out by legislative leaders and the governor include restoring 17 of the 34 deferred road projects, including the I-96 and Beck Road Interchange. Cassis was instrumental in making sure the project was restored. From architecting the project’s inclusion in the MDOT Five Year Road and Bridge Plan, to working at a grassroots level to command attention to the severity of the interchange, Cassis has been working tirelessly to see that the community’s efforts pay off.

“After years of preparation, numerous economic investments, and a \$6 million bond approved by Novi voters, we are convinced that all of our efforts got the attention of Gov. Granholm and Director Jeff,” Cassis said. “There is so much at stake in rebuilding this interchange. From health, safety, and economic development standpoints, it is critical that this project be completed.”

While ensuring that education is the top priority, Cassis emphasized that all this was accomplished without raising taxes.

“A fiscally responsible budget with no new taxes was critical, and I am pleased this goal was reached in a cooperative fashion for Michigan families,” Cassis said.

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